

**DORR ANNOUNCES APPOINTMENT OF MORRIS WESTFALL  
AS STATE DIRECTOR FOR MISSOURI**

WASHINGTON, February 21, 2008 -- Agriculture Under Secretary for Rural Development Thomas C. Dorr today announced the appointment of Morris Westfall as the Missouri State Director for USDA Rural Development.

“Morris Westfall brings a keen understanding of the economic, housing, business and infrastructure needs of the state’s rural communities,” Dorr said. “He has a distinguished and lengthy record of service to Missouri residents.”

A resident of Halfway, Mo., Westfall served for more than a decade in the Missouri Senate and House of Representatives. He also served for 12 years as the State Executive Director of USDA’s Agriculture Stabilization and Conservation Service. Westfall has been involved with the family farm for more than four decades. He received his Bachelor of Science in Agriculture from the University of Missouri-Columbia.

USDA Rural Development’s mission is to increase economic opportunity and improve the quality of life for rural residents. Rural Development has invested nearly \$91 billion since 2001 for equity and technical assistance to finance and foster growth in homeownership, business development, and critical community and technology infrastructure. More than 1.7 million jobs have been created or saved through these investments. Further information on rural programs is available at a local USDA Rural Development office or by visiting USDA’s web site at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov>.